

PATENT

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RP

## IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: OHTAWA, Yasuki et al. Conf.:  
Appl. No.: NEW Group:  
Filed: March 8, 2002 Examiner:  
For: SOFTENER COMPOSITION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

March 8, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. The softener composition according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant that is a compound represented by the formula (IV) has an HLB of 9 to 17.

6. The softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the blending ratio of the component (A) to the component (B) or the